

04-26-00

A

04/25/00

jc781 U.S. PTO

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → ☒

PTO/SB/05 (4/98)
 Approved for use through 09/30/2000. OMB 0651-0032
 Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL <i>(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b))</i>	Attorney Docket No.	26742.3.02
	First Inventor or Application Identifier	Farrukh Fahim
	Title	SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR OPTIMAL ALLOCATION OF LINK BANDWIDTH IN A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK FOR TRUNK ROUTING
	Express Mail Label No.	EL417816505US

APPLICATION ELEMENTS <i>See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.</i>	ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents Box Patent Application Washington, DC 20231
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> * Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17) (Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing) 2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification [Total Pages 18] (preferred arrangement set forth below) - Descriptive title of the Invention - Cross References to Related Applications - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D - Reference to Microfiche Appendix - Background of the Invention - Brief Summary of the Invention - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed) - Detailed Description - Claim(s) - Abstract of the Disclosure 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets 6] 4. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 2] a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newly executed (original or copy) b. <input type="checkbox"/> Copy from a prior application (37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d)) (for continuation/divisional with Box 16 completed) i. <input type="checkbox"/> DELETION OF INVENTOR(S) Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).	5. <input type="checkbox"/> Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix) 6. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all necessary) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Readable Copy b. <input type="checkbox"/> Paper Copy (identical to computer copy) c. <input type="checkbox"/> Statement verifying identity of above copies
ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS	
7. <input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s)) 8. <input type="checkbox"/> 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b) Statement of Power of Attorney (when there is an assignee) 9. <input type="checkbox"/> English Translation Document (if applicable) 10. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 [Copies of IDS Citations] 11. <input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Amendment 12. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) (Should be specifically itemized) 13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> * Small Entity Statement(s) filed in prior application, Status still proper and desired (PTO/SB/09-12) 14. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) (if foreign priority is claimed) 15. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Express Mail Certificate Check	
* NOTE FOR ITEMS 1 & 13: IN ORDER TO BE ENTITLED TO PAY SMALL ENTITY FEES, A SMALL ENTITY STATEMENT IS REQUIRED (37 C.F.R. § 1.27), EXCEPT IF ONE FILED IN A PRIOR APPLICATION IS RELIED UPON (37 C.F.R. § 1.28).	

16. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No: _____

Prior application information: Examiner _____ Group / Art Unit: _____

For CONTINUATION or DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

17. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

☐ Customer Number or Bar Code Label

(Insert Customer No. or Attach bar code label here)

or ☒ Correspondence address below

Name	Ruben C. DeLeon				
	Haynes and Boone, L.L.P.				
Address	901 Main Street, Suite 3100				
City	Dallas	State	Texas	Zip Code	75202
Country	USA	Telephone	214-651-5000	Fax	214-651-5940

Name (Print/Type)	Ruben C. DeLeon	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	37,812
Signature		Date	4/29/00

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, DC 20231.

d-773197.1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Farrukh Fahim	§	Docket Number: 26742.3.02
	§	
Serial No.: N/A	§	
	§	Group Art Unit: Unknown
Filed: Herewith	§	
	§	Examiner: Unknown
For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR OPTIMAL	§	
ALLOCATION OF LINK BANDWIDTH	§	
IN A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK	§	
FOR TRUNK ROUTING	§	

Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

Express Mail Number: EL417816505US
Date of Deposit: April 25, 2000

I hereby certify that the following attached papers and fee:

1. Utility Patent Application Transmittal Sheet;
2. Fee Transmittal Sheet (in duplicate)
3. Patent Application consisting of: 18 pages of Specification, 14 Claims, 1 page of Abstract;
4. 6 Drawing sheets;
5. Declaration and Power of Attorney;
6. Small Entity Statement;
7. a Check in the amount of \$345.00; and
8. a Return Postcard.

are being deposited with United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, D. C. 20231.

April Reasoner

Typed or Printed Name

April Reasoner

Signature

APPLICANT or PATENTEE Furrukh FahimSerial or Patent No.: N/ADocket No. 26702.3.02Filed or Issued: HerewithFor: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR OPTIMAL ALLOCATION OF LINK BANDWIDTH IN A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK FOR TRUNK ROUTING**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS**
(37 C.F.R. § 1.9(f) and 1.27(b)) - INDEPENDENT INVENTOR

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under Section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR OPTIMAL ALLOCATION OF LINK BANDWIDTH IN A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK FOR TRUNK ROUTING described in:

- ☒ the specification filed herewith.
☐ application serial no. _____, filed _____
☐ patent no. _____, issued _____

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 C.F.R. § 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 C.F.R. § 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 C.F.R. § 1.9(e).

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

- ☒ no such person, concern, or organization
☐ persons, concerns or organizations listed below*

*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 C.F.R. § 1.27)

FULL NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

- ☐ INDIVIDUAL
☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN
☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

FULL NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

- ☐ INDIVIDUAL
☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN
☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

FULL NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

- ☐ INDIVIDUAL
☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN
☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 C.F.R. § 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF INVENTOR: Furrukh FahimSIGNATURE OF INVENTOR: Furrukh FahimDATE: 4/24/00

D-772159.1

EXPRESS MAIL NO.: <u>26417816505US</u>	DATE OF DEPOSIT: <u>April 25, 2000</u>
This paper and fee are being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service Express Mail Post Office to Addressee service under 37 CFR §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231	
<u>April Reasoner</u> Name of person mailing paper and fee	<u>April Reasoner</u> Signature of person mailing paper and fee

**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR OPTIMAL ALLOCATION OF LINK
BANDWIDTH IN A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK FOR
TRUNK ROUTING**

Inventor: Furrukh Fahim
4313 Risinghill Drive
Plano, Texas 75024

HAYNES AND BOONE, L.L.P.
3100 Bank of America Plaza
901 Main Street
Dallas, Texas 75202-3789
(214) 651-5000
Attorney Docket No. 26742.3.02
d-751957

Attorney Docket No. 26742.3.02

EXPRESS MAIL NO.: <u>92417816505 us</u>	DATE OF DEPOSIT: <u>April 25, 2000</u>
This paper and fee are being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service Express Mail Post Office to Addressee service under 37 CFR §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231	
<u>April Reasoner</u>	<u>April Reasoner</u>
Name of person mailing paper and fee	Signature of person mailing paper and fee

**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR OPTIMAL ALLOCATION OF LINK
BANDWIDTH IN A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK FOR
TRUNK ROUTING**

5

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application relates to, and claims priority of, provisional application Serial
10 Number 60/131,731 filed April 30, 1999.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to routing multirate traffic streams through a
communications network and more particularly for a method and a system to allocate
15 bandwidth resources on network links to increase the number of traffic streams that are
routed over the network.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Devices such as computer terminals, phones, fax machines, etc. can transfer
20 information such as data, voice, video, and electronic mail, etc. by means of
communication networks. When devices communicate, they generate traffic that is
routed over the communication network to which the devices are connected.

In a connection-oriented data network, a call setup phase establishes the route
between the call origination and destination points in the network. All traffic is sent
25 through the network on the path established in the call setup phase. During the call setup

Attorney Docket No. 26742.3.02

phase ,bandwidth resources are reserved to route a traffic stream through the network. An important feature of contemporary connection-oriented networks, e.g. frame relay, ATM, and MPLS, is the ability to deliver services with varying rates. The traffic streams to deliver different service types, e.g. voice or video, require different amount of
5 resources across the network. If a route cannot be found with the required amount of bandwidth then the call is blocked from accessing the network.

A network is composed of *nodes* (switches) and *links*. A link connects exactly two nodes. The traffic that enters a network is usually referred to as an *ingress node* and the traffic that leaves the network is usually referred to as an *egress node*. Hereafter,
10 ingress and egress nodes will be referred to simply as *ingress* and *egress*. In state-of-the-art broadband data networks, either constant or variable bit rate characterizes a traffic stream. The bandwidth resources required to service a constant bit rate are straightforward. However, the bandwidth needed to service a variable bit rate traffic stream can be determined using the concept of Equivalent or Effective bandwidth.
15 Numerous techniques have been developed to determine effective bandwidth of a variable bit rate, see for example M. Schwartz, "*Broadband Integrated Networks*", Prentice Hall, 1996, and R. Guerin, H. Ahmadi, and M. Naghshineh, "*Equivalent Capacity and Its Application to Bandwidth Allocation in High-Speed Networks*", IEEE Journal on Selected Areas in Communications, Vol. 9, No. 7, 1991. Although the traffic
20 in a data network is routed in discrete packets or frames or cells, due to the effective bandwidth concept the traffic flow can be treated as constant. Therefore, in the context of routing, a Time Division Multiplex (TDM) trunk is similar to a virtual connection in Asynchronous Transmission Mode (ATM) or a virtual circuit in frame relay or a label switch path (LSP) in Multi-Protocol Label Switching (MPLS). Hereafter, *trunk* will be
25 used to refer to a virtual connection or virtual circuit or LSP.

One method addresses optimal routing but uses a technique of asymptotically determining loss probability then solves a set of linear equations to determine network sensitivity. Another system provides a method of grouping virtual circuits into virtual paths. Traffic trunks consume bandwidth resources on the network links and nodes. To
30 insure acceptable quality of service (QoS) trunks should be routed so that resources are

Attorney Docket No. 26742.3.02

not over-utilized. When their traffic is loaded on trunks that are routed on over-utilized links, the customers experience performance problems such as long delays and loss of data. Hence it is critically important to route trunks such a way that same bandwidth resources are not allocated to different trunks that will cause congestion in the network.

5 The number of trunks that can be routed over a given network greatly depends on how network resources are allocated to various trunks. Therefore, the problem of routing maximum number of trunks in a resource-constrained network can essentially be characterized as an optimal resource allocation problem. The combinatorial nature of the optimal routing requires efficient search algorithms.

10 Therefore, what is needed is a method and system to optimally allocate link bandwidth in a communications network.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

15 In contrast to the prior art, the present invention provides a method for optimal allocation of link bandwidth in a communications network for trunk routing.

20 To this end, in one embodiment the method includes mapping the network routing problem on a unique modification of a well proven mathematical model. Furthermore, the invention describes an efficient search algorithm that searches for routing solutions to increase the number of trunks routed over the network without violating resource constraints.

25 One objective of the invention is to generate a maximum number of routes for trunks by allocating network resources on these routes. Such routes can be used to develop routing tables or route configuration commands for switches that may use pre-determined routes to route traffic through the network. Since the invention allocates specific resources to the traffic trunks along the entire route, it allows network engineers to plan and engineer trunks that require Quality of Service (QoS).

As part of a routing system, the invention helps network engineers allocate resources to a maximize number of trunks that are routed upon the network without over-

Attorney Docket No. 26742.3.02

utilization of resources. The invention includes a mathematical model and a routing algorithm that operates on a resource constrained network.

Therefore, in accordance with the previous summary, objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent to one skilled in the art from the subsequent description and the appended claims taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGURE 1 is a diagram of the shortest paths for two trunks;
FIGURE 2 is a diagram of one routing embodiment of one of the trunks;
FIGURE 3 is a diagram of one routing embodiment of the other trunk;
FIGURE 4 is a diagram of the preferred routing of both trunks of the examples;
and
FIGURE 5 is a flowchart of the system.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The present invention can be described with several examples given below. It is understood, however, that the examples below are not necessarily limitations to the present invention, but are used to describe typical embodiments of operation.

As stated earlier, one objective of the invention is to route maximum number of trunks on a network with resource constraints. The invention provides a unique modification of a multi-commodity mathematical model that maximizes flow in a capacity constrained network. The problem of routing maximum number of trunks through a communications network can be described as a multi-commodity problem by mapping each trunk as a commodity. However, in the multi-commodity model, the resources or capacity used by a unit of any commodity is the same. This condition is too restrictive for contemporary multi-rate broadband networks because a high bandwidth traffic trunk consumes more bandwidth than a trunk with low bandwidth requirement.

Attorney Docket No. 26742.3.02

The invention provides a method to modify the multi-commodity model so that the capacity utilized by different trunks does not have to be identical.

In sum, the problem can be rephrased as although realistic networks have to route competing traffic demands, the networks have limited resources to do so. The number of traffic trunks that can be routed over a given network of limited resources is dependent heavily on the routes of the trunk..

To illustrate the combinatorial nature of routing problems, consider the example of a network presented in figure 1. Suppose there is one unit of capacity available on each link 42 (one unit of bandwidth capacity could be a DS1 or DS3 or any other signaling rate in a communications network). Also suppose the two traffic trunks, the shortest path 38 from network element 10 to network element 28 requires 1 unit of capacity, and the shortest path 40 from network element 10 to network element 34 requires 1 unit of capacity.

Now if the trunk from network element 10 to network element 28 is routed over the shortest route, which is path 46 shown in figure 2, then the trunk from network element 10 to 28 cannot be routed using the shortest route without over utilizing at least one link in the network.

Similarly, if network element 1 to 34 is routed over the shortest route, path 48 as shown in figure 3, then 1 to 28 cannot be routed without over-utilization of links in the network.

Figure 4 shows the optimal routing solution where both the trunks can be routed without over utilizing any links. In the optimal solution 1 to 28 is routed on path 50 and 1 to 34 is routed on path 52. This example illustrates the combinatorial nature of routing in a resource constraint network..

The invention uses concepts from network flow programming. Specifically, the invention uses a unique modification of a well-known mathematical model called multi-commodity flow model that occurs in network flow programming. The concepts of network flow programming including multi-commodity flow model have been explained in R. Ahuja, T. L. Magnanti, and J. B. Orlin. "Network Flows: Theory, Algorithm and Applications", Prentice Hall, 1993 and J. L. Kennington and R. V. Helgason. 1980.

Attorney Docket No. 26742.3.02

"Algorithms for Network Programming", Wiley-Interscience, 1980. Multi-commodity model and general techniques to solve it are the exclusive topic of A. A. Assad, 1978, "Multi-commodity network flows: A survey", Networks 8, 37-91.

5 The standard multi-commodity model would correctly describe the trunk routing problem in a communications network model if all trunks would consume equal amount of resources. However, in a realistic network, all trunks do not consume an equal amount of resources. For example, a T3 trunk requires 28 times the capacity of a T1 trunk. Similarly, an OC12 trunk requires bandwidth capacity equivalent to 12 T3 trunks. The invention uniquely modifies the standard multi-commodity model to correctly depict
10 realistic communication networks.

However, to describe the preferred embodiment, the well established multi-commodity model will be explained with the assumption that all trunks use equal amount of bandwidth. Then the simplifying assumption is lifted and the unique modification used by the invention is explained. The intention is not to explain or proof exhaustively
15 the multi-commodity model as it has been in the literature, but just to use the proven concepts of multi-commodity model to illustrate and explain the model used in the invention.

Notation

20 If link i connect two nodes say node a and b , then i is said to be bi-directional if the traffic can flow from a to b or from b to a . Generally, links in communications are bi-directional and flows in network flow programming are directional. For bi-directional links, we associate variables x and z to represent flows in opposite direction.

25 L = A mapping of the set of all links in a network on a set of integers $1, \dots, I$.
 N = A mapping of the set of all nodes in a network on a set of integers $1, \dots, J$.
 T = A mapping of the set of all commodities to be routed on a set of integers $1, \dots, K$.
 A = Node arc incidence matrix.

Attorney Docket No. 26742.3.02

\bar{b}^k = Vector of J elements associated to commodity k such that i^{th} element b_i^k is defined as

$$b_{i,k} = \begin{cases} s & i \text{ is the ingress node for } k \text{ and } s \text{ is the number of trunks incident upon } i. \\ -t & i \text{ is an egress node for } k \text{ and } s \text{ is the number of trunks incident upon } i. \\ 0 & i \text{ is neither an ingress nor egress.} \end{cases}$$

5 \bar{x}_k = A $J \times 1$ vector of link flows for commodity k . The i^{th} element $x_{i,k}$ is flow on link i in one direction.

\bar{z}_k = A $J \times 1$ vector of link flows for commodity k . The i^{th} element $z_{i,k}$ is flow on link i in the direction opposite to $x_{i,k}$.

10 \bar{c}_k = Cost vector for commodity k . The i^{th} vector $c_{i,k}$ is the cost for a unit of flow of commodity k on link i .

y_i = Capacity of link i in terms of total number of traffic trunks that can routed over the link.

Multi-Commodity Model

15 The problem of routing can be described as a system of linear relationships as follows

$$\text{Minimize Cost: } \sum_{k=1}^K \bar{c}_k (\bar{x}_k + \bar{z}_k)$$

Such that following constraints are not violated

$$A\bar{x}_k - A\bar{z}_k = \bar{b}_k \quad \text{for all } k \in T \quad \dots (1)$$

$$20 \quad \sum_{k=1}^K (x_{i,k} + z_{i,k}) \leq y_i \quad \text{for all } i \in L \quad \dots (2)$$

$x_{i,k}, z_{i,k}$ are non-negative integers.

Attorney Docket No. 26742.3.02

Here (1) are called as mass balance constraints and (2) are known as linking capacity constraints. [1], [2], and [3] give an excellent in-depth explanation of the multi-commodity model.

5 Modification of Multi-Commodity Model

As noted earlier, the assumption that all links and commodities use the same unit of bandwidth is too restrictive. For example, a network may have links that have bandwidth available in units of DS1 while others may have bandwidth available only in DS3; yet others may have speeds in units of OC12 and so on. Similarly, some traffic
 10 trunks may be DS1 or DS3 or OC12 etc. A key constraint is that a traffic trunk can only be routed over links with speed greater than the speed of the traffic trunk. For example, a DS3 traffic trunk can only be routed over links that have speeds equivalent to DS3 or higher.

To remove the simplifying assumption of multi-commodity model that all
 15 commodities require same amount of bandwidth. We refine the definition of commodity. By this definition, a commodity is not only defined by the ingress node, but also the bandwidth required by the trunks in the commodity. We further define

Δ = Set of bandwidths of all commodities

20 μ = Minimum element of Δ

κ_k = Bandwidth of commodity k .

β_i = Bandwidth of link i

To prevent routing a traffic trunk on links that have smaller bandwidth, we can
 25 remove such links from the node-arc incidence matrix and commodity flow vectors. However, for the sake of simplicity of the symbolic representation we define

$\bar{x}'_k = A I \times 1$ vector of link flows for commodity k . Where, the i^{th} element $x'_{i,k}$ is fixed at 0 if $\beta_i < \kappa_k$.

Attorney Docket No. 26742.3.02

Similarly,

$\bar{z}'_k = A I \times I$ vector of link flows for commodity k . Where, the i^{th} element $z'_{i,k}$ is fixed at 0 if $\beta_i < \kappa_k$.

5

Then the problem of routing can be formulated as follows

$$\text{Minimize Cost: } \sum_{k=1}^K \bar{c}_k (\bar{x}'_k + \bar{z}'_k)$$

Such that following constraints are not violated

$$10 \quad A\bar{x}'_k - A\bar{z}'_k = \bar{b}_k \quad \text{for all } k \in T \quad \dots (3)$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^K \Psi_k (x'_{i,k} + z'_{i,k}) \leq \Gamma_i y_i \quad \text{for all } i \in L \quad \dots (4)$$

$$\text{where } \Psi_k = \left\lceil \frac{\kappa_k}{\mu} \right\rceil \text{ and } \Gamma_i = \left\lfloor \frac{\beta_i}{\mu} \right\rfloor$$

$\lfloor m \rfloor$ is defined as the greatest integer less than the real number m and $\lceil m \rceil$ is the least integer greater than m .

15 By fixing appropriate elements in x and z the invention prevents routing commodity k on links that are not eligible for commodity k . By introducing the coefficients Ψ_k and Γ_i in (4), the invention normalizes the resource requirements per unit of flow of traffic trunks and link bandwidth in terms of μ . The flow coefficients Ψ_k work like multipliers that translate a unit of flow of commodity k , with bandwidth κ_k , into a unit of flow of multiple of bandwidth μ . Similarly, Γ_i translates the bandwidth of link i into a multiple of bandwidth μ .

20

If L is a set of links in the network, N is the set of nodes in the network and T is the set of commodities where each commodity includes all the traffic trunks with a particular ingress node. As a first step to map the problem on the mathematical model, a

Attorney Docket No. 26742.3.02

directed graph is generated from the set of nodes and links in the given communications network. Generally, links in a communications network are bi-directional (traffic can move in either direction) therefore two directional arcs, one in each direction, are used to represent a bi-directional link.

5

Routing Solution Process

The process by which the invention generates optimal routing solution will now be described. The mathematical model that is to be solved is an integer program, which is a *NP-complete*. Therefore, any algorithm that solves such a problem may search for
10 the optimal solution for an indefinite amount of time. The invention provides an algorithm that quickly finds a solution, then iteratively improves the solution. The algorithm can be stopped at any time to retrieve the best solution found thus far.

As shown in figure 5 show, the input required to solve optimal routing problem can be classified into 3 sets as shown in step 80: 1.) a set of nodes in the network and the
15 bandwidth capacity of each node; 2.) a set of links in the network and the bandwidth capacity of each link; and 3.) a set of traffic trunks along with the bandwidth required. This information is used to construct the mathematical model as described previously. To quickly find a good routing solution, the invention uses the following algorithm. The invention uses a network simplex algorithm to solve for each commodity one at a time.
20 The resources used by a commodity n are removed before routing the trunks in commodity $(n+1)$ as shown in step 82. After all the commodities have been solved the total solution is compared to the best solution found so far. If the new solution is the better than the previous best solution, then the new solution replaces the best solution as shown in step 84. If the stopping criteria has been reached, then stop and present the best
25 solution found thus far as shown in step 86. If the stopping criteria has not been reached then go to step 80. The stopping criteria could be any predefined condition e.g. best of a given number of solutions.

The algorithm used in the preferred embodiment to solve the mathematical model above is now described below in pseudocode and shown in figure 6.

30

Attorney Docket No. 26742.3.02

We begin by:

1. Create a directed graph of the communications network such that

A graph vertex represents a network node.

For each directional link a directional arc is created.

- 5 For each bi-directional link a two arcs in opposite directions are created.

2. Set best_flow = 0

3. Create a list of commodities comm_list from the list of traffic trunks. Each element of comm_list is created as follows

Set ingress and egress to demand and supply vertices in the directed graph.

- 10 Set the flow units of the demand-supply pair = number of trunks between the ingress-egress pair.

Set demand-supply pair bandwidth = ingress-egress pair bandwidth

4. Set K = number of commodities.

5. Set best_cost = (sum of the cost of all links) x (sum of the flow units for all demands).

- 15 6. While (stopping_criteria is not reached)

7. total_feasible_flow = 0; total_cost = 0;

8. For $j = 1$ to K

9. $k = \text{comm_list}[j]$

- 20 10. Set μ = bandwidth of k .

11. For all $l \in L \equiv \text{Set of links}$
 = Total bandwidth of l

λ = Load on link l

$c = \lfloor (- \lambda) / \mu \rfloor$

- 25 Set the capacity of each arc representing l equal to c .

12. Use network simplex algorithm to determine the maximum feasible_flow and flow_cost for the commodity.

13. For all $l \in L$
 f = Total flow on the arcs representing l

Attorney Docket No. 26742.3.02

λ = Load on link l

Load on $l = (\mu f + \lambda)$

14. total_feasible_flow = total_feasible_flow + feasible_flow

15. total_cost = total_cost + flow_cost

5 16. if ((total_feasible_flow < best_flow) OR

((total_cost < best_cost) AND (total_flow = best_flow)))

Save the paths for all the commodities

17. Randomly change the order of elements in comm_list

10 Figure 6 illustrates a flow chart of the process. In the initialization step 90, a directed graph of the communications network is created. Additionally, a list of commodities is created from the list of traffic trunks. For each commodity, the ingress and egress nodes are set to demand and supply nodes respectively. Further, the flow units of the demand-supply pair is set to the number of trunks between the ingress-egress pair. The commodity ID is then set to 1.

15 In step 92, if the commodity ID is less than or equal to the total number of commodities, the process proceeds to step 96, otherwise, the process ends at step 94. In step 96, the arc capacity is set by first setting the u variable to the bandwidth of the traffic pair identified by the commodity ID. Additionally, for each link, the variable b is set to the total bandwidth of the link; the variable y is set to the load on the link; and the c variable is set to $b-y$ divided by u and then rounded down to the nearest integer. The arc capacity is then set to c .

20 In step 98, a network simplex algorithm is used to solve the maximum flow problem for the commodity.

25 Step 100 then updates the link load by setting the u variable to the bandwidth of the traffic pair. Moreover, for each link, the f variable is set to the total flow on the arcs representing the link, while the y variable is set to the load on the link. Additionally, the load on the link is set to u times f plus y .

Attorney Docket No. 26742.3.02

The routes taken by the commodity are then mapped in the digraph on the traffic trunk over the communications network in step 102. The commodity ID is then incremented in step 104 and the process starts back over in step 92.

- 5 It is understood that several modifications, changes and substitutions are intended in the foregoing disclosure and in some instances some features of the invention will be employed without a corresponding use of other features. Accordingly, it is appropriate that the appended claims be construed broadly and in a manner consistent with the scope of the invention.

Attorney Docket No. 26742.3.02**CLAIMS**

1. A method of allocating network resources, the method comprising:
 - creating a model of a plurality of network nodes, a plurality of network links, and a plurality of trunks,
 - determining an arc capacity for each commodity of a plurality of commodities;
 - determining a maximum flow of the commodity;
 - updating a link load; and
 - mapping a solution on the network resources.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the model includes:
 - setting a plurality of ingress nodes to a plurality of demand nodes;
 - setting a plurality of egress nodes to a plurality of supply nodes; and
 - setting a plurality of flow units of a demand and supply pair to a number of trunks between a corresponding ingress and egress pair.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein at least two egress nodes are set to one ingress node.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the determining the arc capacity is done by subtracting a total load on a link from a total bandwidth of the link and dividing by a bandwidth of the commodity *and rounding down to the closest integer.*
Stahin
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the updating the link load includes setting the link load to the total flow on the link multiplied by the bandwidth and adding an existing load on the link.
6. A computer software system of allocating network resources, the system comprising:
 - computer instructions to create a model of a plurality of network nodes, a plurality of network links, and a plurality of trunks,

Attorney Docket No. 26742.3.02

computer instructions to determine an arc capacity for each commodity of a plurality of commodities; determining a maximum flow of the commodity;
computer instructions to update a link load; and
computer instructions to map a solution on the network resources.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the computer instructions to create model includes:

computer instructions to set a plurality of ingress nodes to a plurality of demand nodes;

computer instructions to set a plurality of egress nodes to a plurality of supply nodes; and

computer instructions to set a plurality of flow units of a demand and supply pair to a number of trunks between a corresponding ingress and egress pair.

8. The system of claim 7, further including computer instructions to set at least two egress nodes to one ingress node.

9. The system of claim 6, wherein the computer instructions to determine the arc capacity includes subtracting a total load on a link from a total bandwidth of the link and dividing by a bandwidth of the commodity *and rounding down to the closest integer. Hakim*

10. The system of claim 6, wherein the computer instructions to update the link load includes computer instructions to set the link load to the total flow on the link multiplied by the bandwidth and adding an existing load on the link.

11. A method of allocating network resources, the method comprising:

creating a model of a plurality of network nodes, a plurality of network links, and a plurality of trunks, wherein creating the model includes:

setting a plurality of ingress nodes to a plurality of demand nodes;

setting a plurality of egress nodes to a plurality of supply nodes; and

Attorney Docket No. 26742.3.02

setting a plurality of flow units of a demand and supply pair to a number of trunks between a corresponding ingress and egress pair;

determining an arc capacity for each commodity of a plurality of commodities;

determining a maximum flow of the commodity;

updating a link load; and

mapping a solution on the network resources.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein at least two egress nodes are set to one ingress node.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the determining the arc capacity is done by subtracting a total load on a link from a total bandwidth of the link and dividing by a bandwidth of the commodity, *and rounding down to the closest integer*
Station

14. The method of claim 11, wherein the updating the link load includes setting the link load to the total flow on the link multiplied by the bandwidth and adding an existing load on the link.

Attorney Docket No. 26742.3.02

**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR OPTIMAL ALLOCATION OF LINK
BANDWIDTH IN A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK FOR
TRUNK ROUTING**

5

ABSTRACT

A system and method for routing the maximum number of trunks on a network with resource constraints is described. The invention provides a unique modification of a multi-commodity mathematical model that maximizes flow in a capacity constrained network. The problem of routing the maximum number of trunks through a communications network can be described as a multi-commodity problem by mapping each trunk as a commodity. However, in the multi-commodity model, the resources or capacity used by a unit of any commodity is the same. This condition is too restrictive for contemporary multi-rate broadband networks because a high bandwidth traffic trunk consumes more bandwidth than a trunk with low bandwidth requirement. The invention provides a method to modify the multi-commodity model so that the capacity utilized by different trunks does not have to be identical.

d-751957

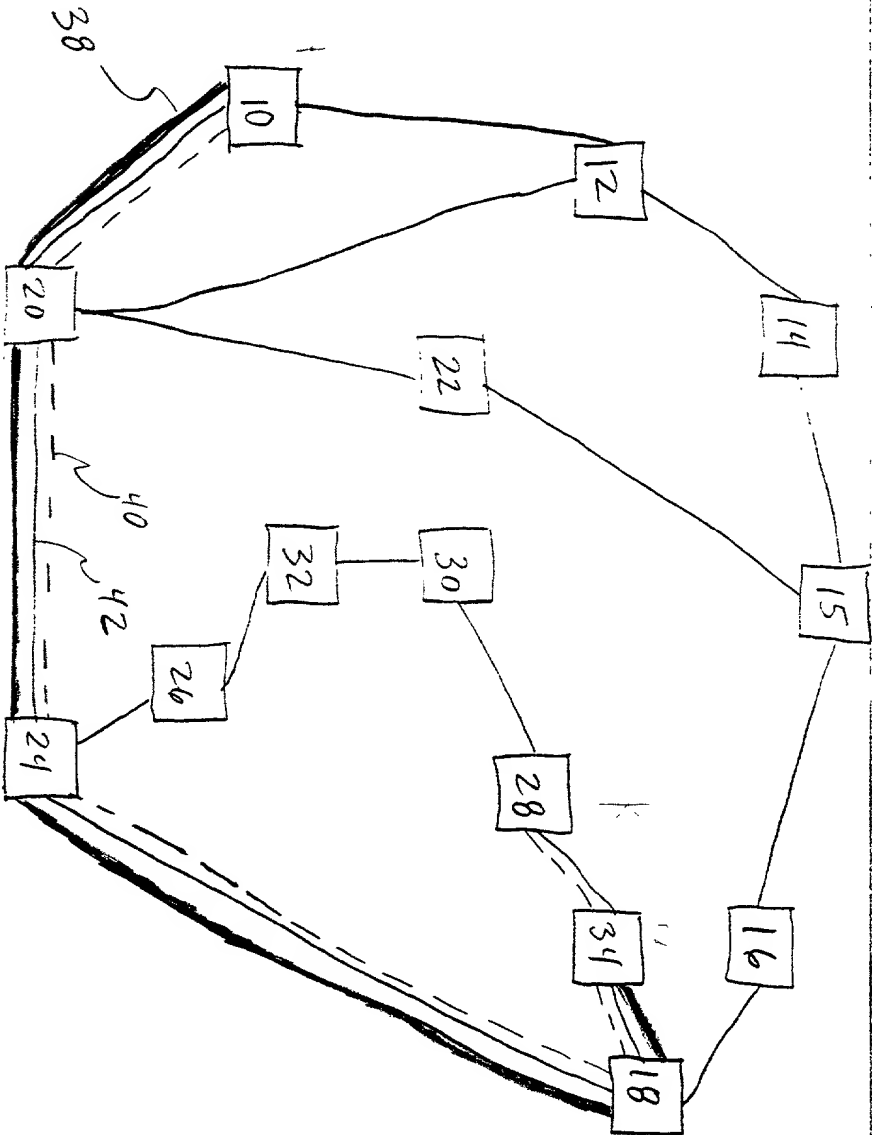
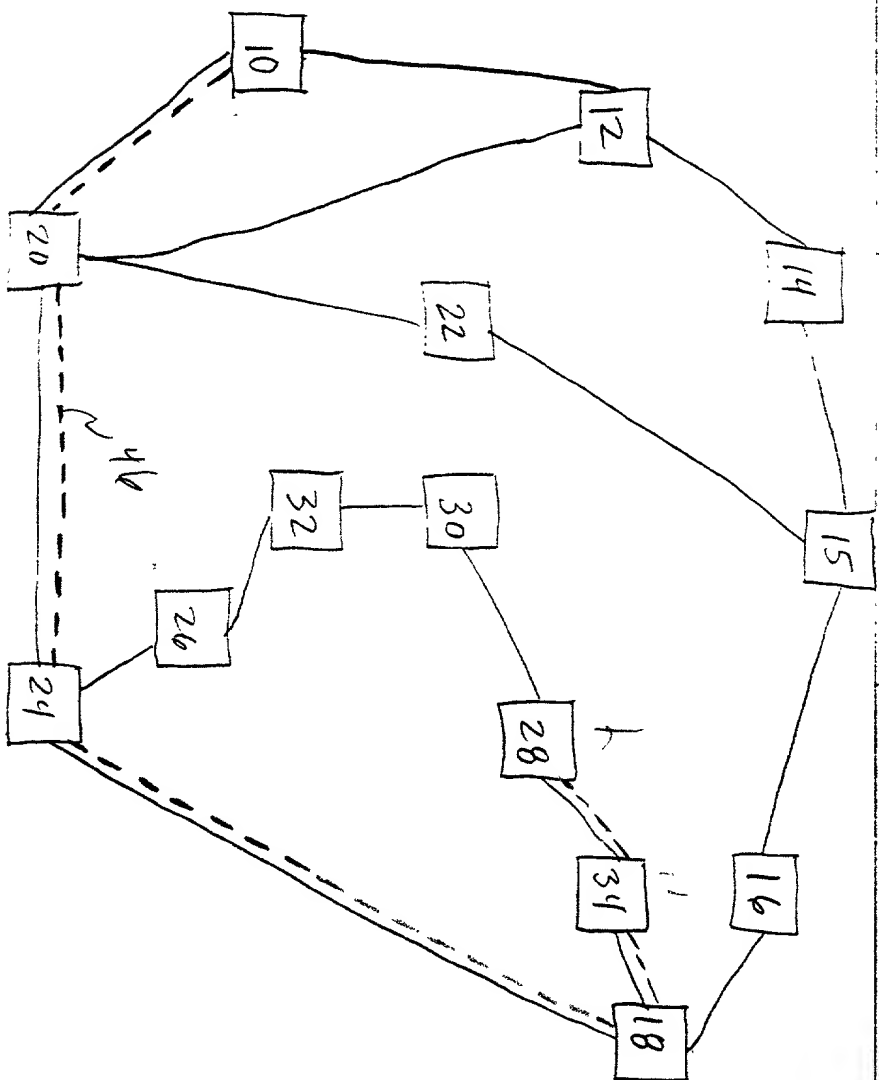
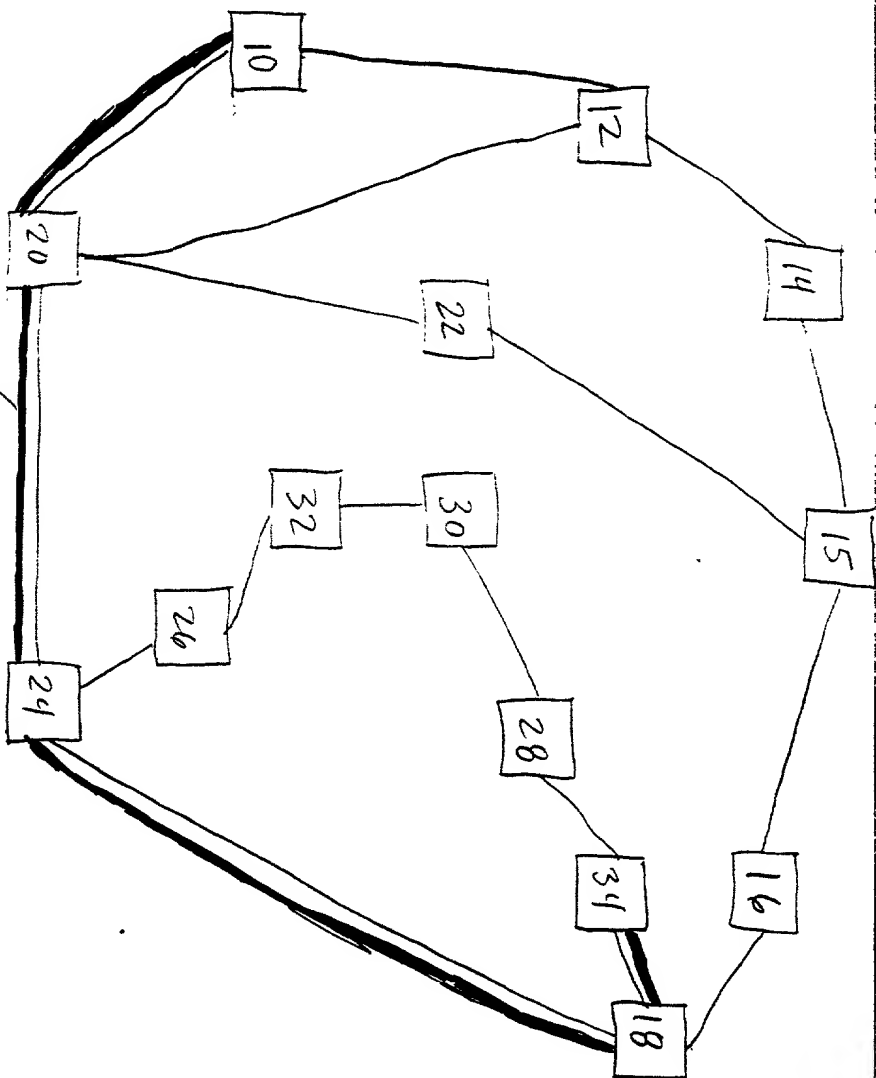


FIGURE 1



11 11 11 SHEETS
 11 11 11 SHEETS
 11 11 11 SHEETS



48
Figure 3

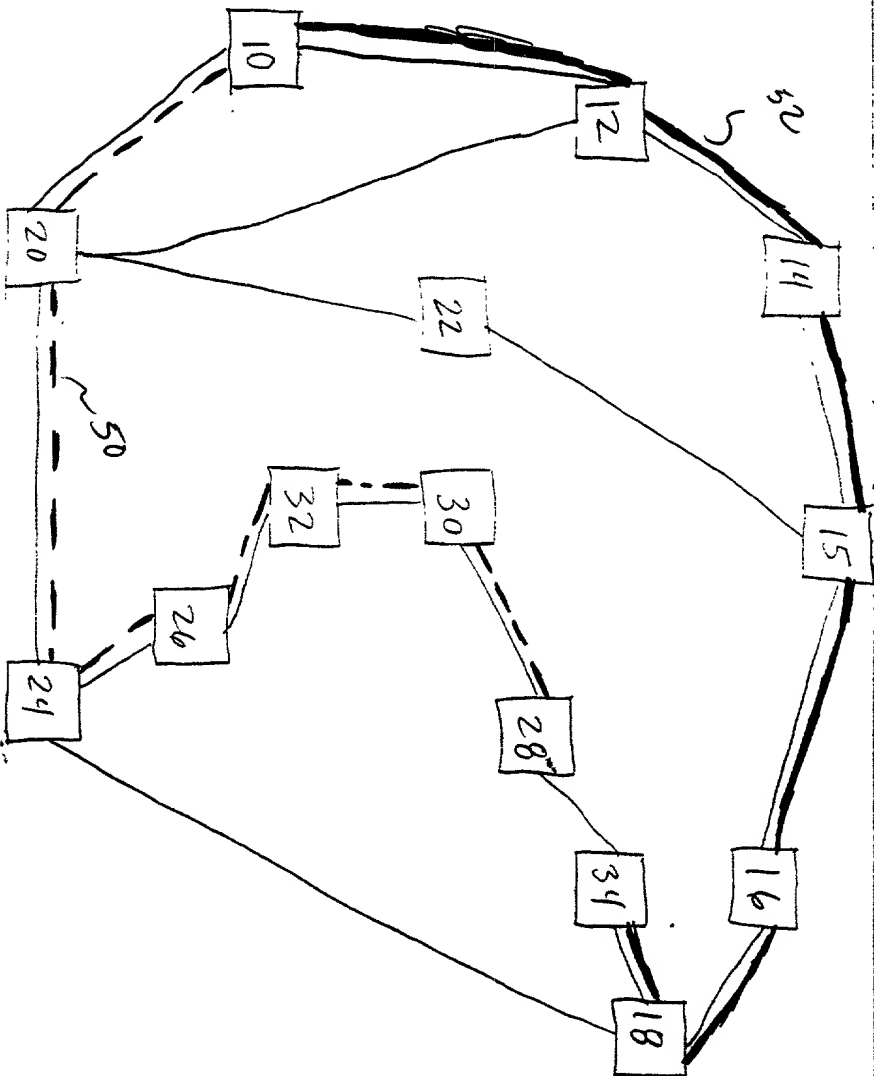


Figure 4

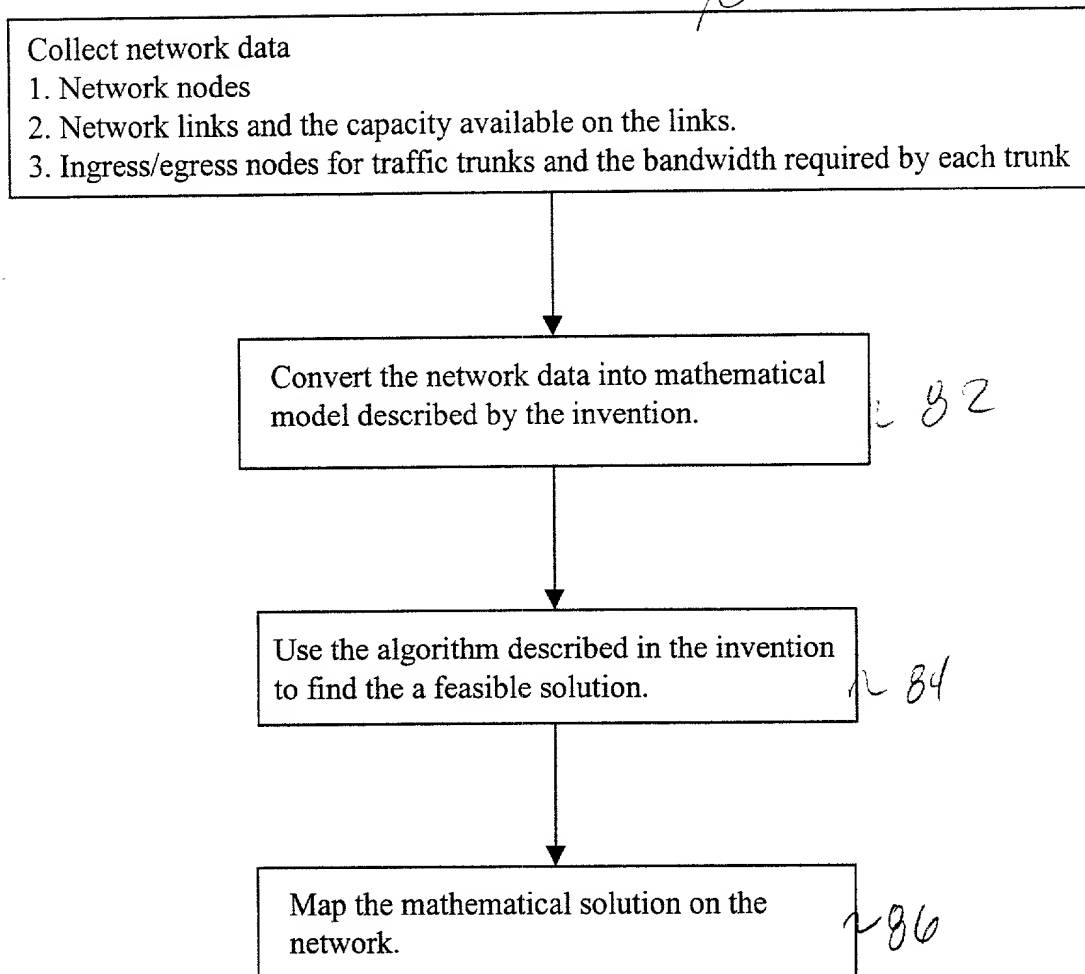
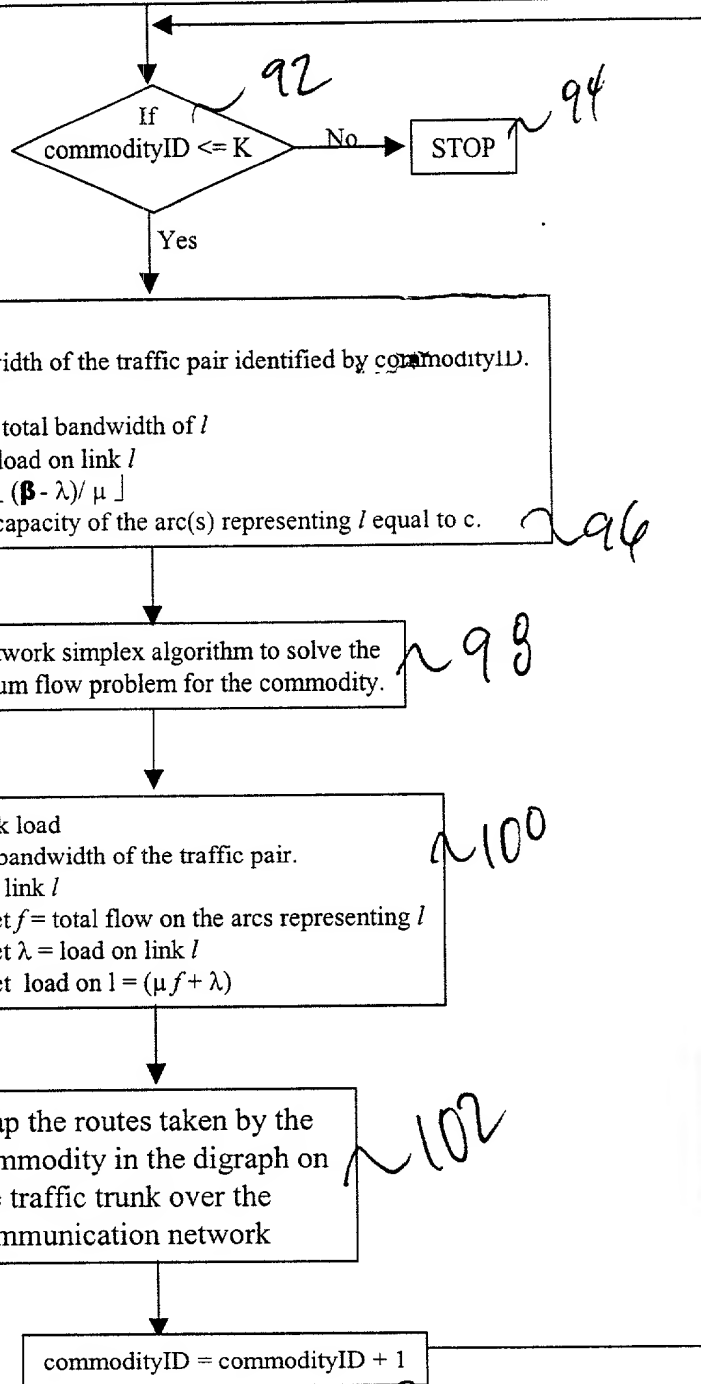


FIGURE 5

FIGURE 6

Initialize

1. Create a directed graph of the communications network.
2. Create a list of commodities from the list of traffic trunks. For each
Set ingress and egress to demand and supply nodes in the directed graph.
Set the flow units of the demand-supply pair = number of trunks between the ingress-egress pair.
3. Let K = number of commodities.
4. Set commodityID = 1



commodityID = commodityID + 1

DOCKET NO.: 26742.3.02**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR
PATENT APPLICATION**

As the below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR OPTIMAL ALLOCATION OF LINK
BANDWIDTH IN A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK FOR
TRUNK ROUTING**

the specification of which: (check one)

 X is attached hereto.
 was filed on _____
under Attorney's Docket Number _____
as Application Serial No. _____
and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 USC 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

60/131,731
(Application Number)

April 30, 1999
(Filing Date)

DOCKET NO.: 26742.3.02

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As the named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agents to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Jeffrey M. Becker	Reg. No. 35,442	Michael J. Balconi-Lamica	Reg. No. 34,291
James R. Bell	Reg. No. 26,528	Todd Mattingly	Reg. No. 40,298
Michael S. Bush	Reg. No. 31,745	David L. McCombs	Reg. No. 32,271
Randall E. Colson	Reg. No. 40,566	David M. O'Dell	Reg. No. 42,044
Michael A. Davis, Jr.	Reg. No. 35,488	Phillip B. Philbin	Reg. No. 35,979
Ruben C. DeLeon	Reg. No. 37,812	Brandi W. Sarfatis	Reg. No. 37,713
Timothy Headley	Reg. No. 31,765	David O. Simmons	Reg. No. 43,124
Brian J. Hubbard	Reg. No. 45,873		
Rita M. Irani	Reg. No. 31,028		
Warren B. Kice	Reg. No. 22,732		

Send correspondence to Ruben C. DeLeon, Haynes and Boone, LLP, 901 Main Street, Suite 3100, Dallas, Texas 75202-3789 and direct all telephone calls to Ruben C. DeLeon at 214/651-5544.

FULL NAME OF INVENTOR: Furrukh Fahim

INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE:  DATED: 4/24/00

RESIDENCE: 4313 Risinghill Drive, Plano, Texas 75024

CITIZENSHIP: Pakistan

POST OFFICE ADDRESS: 4313 Risinghill Drive, Plano, Texas 75024

d-772152.1